

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## CITIZENS COMMITTEE HEADS OFF A STORM

Fear Recrudescence of Old Time Feeling Should  
Col. Meekins Fall Upon the Hon. C.  
Royden Pugh

What promised to be a first class community row along the lines of ancient feuds for which this town was once notorious was nipped in the bud this week by a little quiet work upon the part of a self constituted committee of influential citizens.

A. R. Houtz, president of the Elizabeth City Citizens Committee, has taken the controversy between I. M. Meekins and C. R. Pugh out of the local newspapers. These two gentlemen may wash dirty linen in private, or even in their party columns, but Elizabeth City must not be involved in a row as a result of personal or political differences existing between any two men.

Here then is an agreement signed by Meekins and Mr. Pugh at the request of the committee:

Elizabeth City, N. C.,  
March 30, 1920.

At the earnest request of mutual friends, and as a result of the waiting upon each of the undersigned by a committee of mutual friends, we, out of respect for their judgment and esteem for their sincerity, here drop the matter of our newspaper controversy, and request the several editors, owners and managers of our local papers to publish this statement as our last word.

I. M. MEEKINS  
C. R. PUGH

Witness:  
A. R. Houtz,  
H. G. Kramer,  
H. K. Williams.

An incidental effect of the foregoing agreement probably will be a cessation of the legal action instituted against Mr. Pugh this week by Col. Meekins, the nature of which action was made public in this newspaper last week. This does not mean however that there has been any reconciliation of Meekins and Pugh; it simply means that the public is to be spared a newspaper controversy, for which the public probably will feel thankful, no there be some who enjoy such sport.

## NEW MOOSE QUARTERS CHARMING TO SEE

Loyal Order of Moose Opens Attractive  
Lodge Rooms on Top Floor of  
Hinton Building

The first meeting of Elizabeth City Lodge No. 297 of the Loyal Order of Moose in their new quarters was held last Friday night, March 26th, and all members were given an opportunity to view the spacious and attractively decorated and furnished rooms on the top floor of the Hinton Building which from now on will be the home of the fraternity in this city. The walls and ceiling of the new Moose Hall were done in beautiful tinted effects by Lucia, with paneled borders to match, while the furnishings are tasteful and luxurious in every detail. From the big lounge room to the mirrored reception hall for the ladies. It was decided at the Friday night meeting to hold a banquet and house warming as a formal opening of the hall on Thursday night, April 1st, at which all members of the Loyal Order of Moose were invited to be present. Attorney P. G. Fawcett is director of the local lodge of the Moose, and William R. Pritchard is secretary.

## SPECIAL EASTER SERVICES FOR THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Special Easter Services will be held in Blenheim Memorial Baptist Church Sunday evening, April 4, at 7:30 p. m., for Knights Commandery No. 14, Knights Templar. The pastor, Dr. Geo. W. Clark, will deliver the address and there will be special music by orchestra and choir.

## AMERICAN LEGION NOW IS A MILLION STRONG

Organization of Former Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Still Rapidly Growing

Although but little more than a year since the American Legion now has more than a million members in approximately 8,500 posts, which include every State in the Union. Such an organization of veterans has never before been known in the history of the United States or in any other nation, and one salient feature of the Legion is that it is universal throughout a greater part of the country than any other veteran military body has ever been. Pasquotank Post of the American Legion is steadily growing in membership, and interest in the plans and plans of the organization is much greater among the former service men of this section since the national Executive Committee has taken a definite stand upon the matter of additional compensation for ex-soldiers, sailors and marines.

DR. FLOWERS AT HARVARD  
Dr. C. A. Flowers, formerly at Columbia, N. C., is taking a post graduate course in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, at Boston, Mass.

## CAN YOU PLACE HIM?



HERE is an Elizabeth City business man with one of the handsomest business establishments in Elizabeth City, and yet half the readers of this newspaper probably can not name him after seeing his picture. He doesn't advertise regularly in this newspaper. If he advertised consistently his name would be a household word in the thousands of homes in which THE INDEPENDENT is a weekly visitor.

## STATE AID FOR ROAD TO GATES

Provided \$25,000 Drainage District is Provided in Tadmore Section, Says Page

The Elizabeth City-Gatesville paved highway, recently much discussed in this section as the most logical roadbuilding venture which Pasquotank can embark upon within the near future, and which would connect Elizabeth City with the fertile farming sections of Newland township in Pasquotank, and the whole of Gates county, with a consequent advantage of providing an accessible shipping point to the people of these communities, now depends upon the formation of a drainage district in Newland township. Such a district, according to the plans offered by Russell Snowden, Highway Engineer for the Fourth Division of North Carolina, in which Pasquotank county is located, would require the cutting of seven miles of drainage canal at a total cost of something like \$25,000.

Commissioner Frank Page of the State Highway Commission declares in a letter this week to Chairman W. J. Woodley of the Pasquotank Highway Commission, that if Pasquotank will organize a drainage district to include the Tadmore section in Newland township, the State Highway Commission will be obligated to dig the ditch which will be necessary through the swamp between Pasquotank and Gates counties and build the Pasquotank-Gates road, one fourth of the cost of the undertaking to be paid by Pasquotank, and the remainder to be financed with State and Federal funds.

It is pointed out that the Elizabeth City-Gatesville road can be constructed without the formation of the suggested drainage district; but the cost of the road would be considerably greater, and the Tadmore section would remain subject to overflow by high tides, as at present. For these two reasons District Engineer Snowden suggests that the drainage district as proposed would be cheaper in the long run, considering the enhancement of the value of the Tadmore farming lands following the installation of an effective drainage system. As the matter stands, Commissioner Page strongly suggests that State and Federal aid for the proposed Elizabeth City-Gatesville Highway will be withheld until upon condition that the Newland drainage district be formed. According to Engineer Snowden's specifications, which were the result of a preliminary survey of the route and adjacent section made by him several weeks ago.

## WHITEHILL-WHITEHURST

Miss Lillian A. Whitehurst, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Whitehurst, and popular society girl of this city, was married last Friday at Portsmouth, Va., to Dr. Nelson H. Whitehill, of Washington, D. C. The marriage was one of a surprise to the friends of the thing of this city. The newly married couple will make their home here. Dr. Whitehill being in charge of the County branch of the State Department of Agriculture.

## YOUR JUVENILE COURT AT WORK

Erring Youth Given An Opportunity to Make Good  
In Life

Of 24 boys and young men arrested for gaming in this city last Sunday, five were under 16 years of age. Formerly these boys would have been herded into the Recorder's Court with every grade any type of criminal of older years and treated as criminals. Their arrest and trial would have marked them as criminals. But the last General Assembly of North Carolina created a Juvenile Court and a Public Welfare Officer and the five boys under 16 years of age who were arrested Sunday were turned over to the Juvenile Court and spared the odium of a criminal trial.

The writer of this newspaper attended the session of the Juvenile Court Monday morning just to report how the thing works and the parents of every child in this county and in this state should read this report with interest.

To begin with, the session of the Juvenile Court was conducted with absolute privacy, except for the presence of the writer. The five boys were taken into a room where there would be no intruders. Geo. R. Little, Clerk of the Superior Court, is the Judge of this Juvenile Court. Judge Little opened the Court by explaining to the boys that the Court is their friend and that it is established for the purpose of helping the boys. Judge Little told them that the Juvenile Court did not exist for the purpose of punishing, but to correct youth who had fallen into erring ways and transgressed the laws of the state.

Judge Little told them about the State Reformatory to which boys were sent for correction when it was demonstrated to the Court that the boys could not be helped in any other way. He expressed the belief however that the boys before him for the first time were not bad boys at all, but had gotten into bad company and thoughtlessly violated the law. He was sure that these boys desired to go straight and that they would not give the Court any further trouble.

In meantime, the Juvenile Court officer, Prof. P. S. Vann, had made a card index record of the case of each boy, to be kept by the Court.

Judge Little then put each of the boys on probation for a period of three months, these boys to report to him every week. It was explained to them that during this time their conduct will be carefully observed by the Court. Each boy was given a green card or tag relating to his particular case and will show that card or tag each time he reports to the Juvenile Court while on probation.

Not a word about the cases of these boys was given to the newspapers and those who had committed offenses for the first time were assured that not even their parents would be told of their troubles.

And so that is how the Juvenile Court in your county works in the case of first offenders. Who will say it is not a better way than dragging the small boy into the police court with a lot of grown-up criminals and treating him as a criminal?

## ELDERLY WOMAN RUN DOWN BY AUTOMOBILE

Getting In Out of The Rain, Mrs. M. C. Stanley Got Into Path of a Motor Car

Mrs. M. C. Stanley of this city was seriously if not fatally injured by being run over by an automobile on Riverside avenue Monday night. The automobile was driven by C. C. Bailey, manager of the Riverside Lumber Co. and was purely accidental.

Mrs. Stanley was going from church to her home on Hunter St., accompanied by some neighbors when a shower of rain caught them. Instead of going to the home of some one on Riverside avenue, they left the residential side and sought shelter in a shed on the waterfront. It was in crossing the street that the accident occurred. Mrs. Stanley stepped out of the way of one car into the path of the car driven by Mr. Bailey. One arm was broken, she was badly bruised and received internal injuries. Mrs. Stanley is about 60 years old.

The accident is peculiarly sad in view of the fact that Mr. Stanley, her husband, is already a cripple as a result of a tree having fallen upon him a few years ago.

## Will Negroes Change Color When They Get Up In Heaven?

There is going to be a warm debate at the Court House in Elizabeth City to-night, Friday April 2, when Rev. Richard Dick, the Black Sam Jones, goes to the mat with the erudite and classical Rev. J. T. Doles of this city on the subject: "Resolved, That The Negro Will Retain His Original Color in Heaven."

Richard Dick, the biggest, blackest, strongest shrewdest and most eloquent Negro pulpitman in eastern North Carolina has long contended that the colored man will carry his color right along to heaven with him. Rev. J. T. Doles, who belongs to the class of more advanced thinkers doesn't think the Lord is going to carry the color scheme beyond the pearly gates. These two well known Negro divines will thresh the subject out for the edification of the public and the satisfaction of themselves to-night. There will be reserved seats for white people.

## Heads Yale's Base Ball Team



WILLIAM CHARLES MEEKINS

AN Elizabeth City boy is Manager of the Yale base ball team which plays the team of William & Mary at Norfolk Easter Monday, April 5. The Manager of Yale's team is William C. Meekins, the son of Col. and Mrs. I. M. Meekins of this city. Young Meekins is one of those boys of whom the old home town feels proud. Bill Meekins, as the boys know him is 22 years old. He left the Elizabeth City High School in 1914 and entered the Choate School at Wallingford, Conn., where he took a college preparatory course. From Choate he entered Yale in 1916 and will finish the academic course of that university this summer. From Yale he will go to Harvard to take the Harvard Law Course.

## HERTFORD GETS LOCAL BOY FOR C. OF C. SECY.

Eldon Jones, Secretary of the New Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce

Eldon D. Jones has been elected Secretary of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, and will assume the duties of that responsible position Monday, April 5.

Mr. Jones was born and reared in Elizabeth City. For the past two years he has been a serious student of the text books and literature of various kinds dealing with the problems of community building and Chamber of Commerce ideals and methods of work. He attended the Summer school of the American City Bureau at Englewood, Pennsylvania, during the season of 1919. He made an excellent record. Since September 1, 1919, he has been assistant secretary of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce and worked without salary because of his ambition to secure thorough actual experience an intimate and practical knowledge of Chamber of Commerce activities.

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce has its headquarters at Hertford. It was recently organized by a group of Hertford business men, and has a strong membership composed of representatives and influential citizens of Perquimans County. The new organization has the enthusiastic support of its members, and the confidence of the general public. An office and a club room have been rented in Hertford's finest business building, and equipped with every convenience.

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce is full of promise. No finer body of men can be found in any similar community in the land, and the new organization is destined to do great things for Hertford and Perquimans county. Already the new Chamber is planning full cooperation with the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce, and will be represented on the occasion of the annual banquet of the local organization. The Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce has rendered the Perquimans County Chamber effective service in perfecting its organization.

## ADAMS' FLOATING THEATRE HERE WEEK OF APRIL 5TH.

James Adams' Floating Theatre, the Playhouse will exhibit at Elizabeth City the next week, beginning Monday night, April 5. The opening bill Monday night will be "The Lure of New York."

## YOUNG EYESIGHT IN OLD AGE

You can't grow younger; but you can enjoy good sight to a ripe old age, if you change your glasses as the advancing years demand.

My eyeglass service is based on long experience, modern equipment and progressive methods in optometry.

This entitles me to your serious consideration, if your eyes need glasses.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY  
Phone 999 :: Eliz. City, N. C.

## CHAIN GANG MUST GO SAYS THIS CONFERENCE

North Carolina Conference For Social Service Declares Principles Which Will Surely Guide Future Legislation

Every North Carolinian interested in the social welfare and progress of his state should read with profound interest the Declaration of Principles of the North Carolina Conference for Social Service in Goldsboro last week. Be it remembered that practically every measure advocated by this conference last year was enacted into law by the General Assembly of 1919. Included in the list were such outstanding matters as the physical examination of school children, compulsory school attendance, the enforcement of the child labor law, establishment of juvenile courts and employment of county superintendents of public welfare.

This year the Conference moves forward in its program and advocates the abolition of chain gangs and jails, censorship of moving pictures, state aid for indigent mothers and "illegitimate" children and vast improvements in our educational and punitive methods. The new Declaration of Principles is a rather lengthy document but it reflects the best thought of the state at the moment. Read it:

### Opportunities For Service

1. First of all we would reiterate the principle laid down at the last session of this Conference that there is just as large opportunity for social service in enriching the lives of our normal population as in extending help to the deficient, dependent and delinquent, and that increased attention should be given to the encouragement of all forms of intellectual progress, library and lecture extension, city planning, public recreation, music, art and beauty in all its forms for our rural and urban communities.

2. We plead for good architecture in building and landscape as one of these forms of beauty which can contribute to the character and happiness of the people, and regard it as of sufficient importance and value to warrant the teaching of its rudiments in the public schools, and making it a department of extension of the university and of our public school system for the purpose of informing the people as to the right standards and of aiding them in their application to their building and landscape problems. A profitable beginning might be made in the architecture of school buildings and school grounds. Good architecture of rural homes and premises and of rural school buildings and grounds would be an influence of inestimable value.

3. We advocate the principle of home ownership for all the people and especially for workers of industry, as conducive to contentment, happiness and more efficient and more permanent work, and as an antidote to disorder, anarchy, bolshevism and unrest in all its forms. For the same reasons we commend the principle of profit sharing in industry and in business as far as it is practicable. We recognize in the child labor and compulsory attendance law of 1919 the correct principle upon which such legislation should be based, and recommend the extension of the means of providing suitable occupation, training and supervision of children during unemployment and vacation. The execution of the law by the Child Welfare Commission and its authorized agents we believe to be soundly conceived and beneficially carried out.

4. We endorse the recommendations of the State Department of Health for the eradication of malaria. We also urge that legislation be secured relating to the proper ventilation, heat regulation, and sanitation of steam railway and street railway passenger cars and passenger stations. We advocate the establishment of a County Sanatorium for tuberculosis patients wherever practicable.

5. We go on record as favoring for the negro not only scrupulous justice but a policy of encouragement and helpfulness, and especially such measures as will help him to help himself. We have nothing to lose by his progress and nothing to gain by his stagnation or retrogression. We therefore favor the same provision by the State for delinquent negro boys and girls as may be found by experience to be satisfactory and effective for delinquent white girls and boys. We endorse the idea of vocational training for both races and recommend that provision be made for the extension of vocational training for negroes as soon as it is possible to do it.

### Chain Gangs Must Go

6. We favor a larger application of the principles of probation and parole to adult offenders against the law and the recognition of the principle that all punishment should be of such a nature and administered in such a way as to contribute to the reformation of the culprit. This means that the chain gang must go, and that the jail must go except as a place of temporary confinement.

7. The best education which a child receives is that training which it receives from a good mother. Therefore financial assistance to mothers of good character who have been widowed or deserted and who have dependent children, should be provided. It is neither just nor right that any mother should be debarrd by poverty from the privilege of raising her own children.

### Help for Mothers

8. The moving picture has enormous possibilities for good, but uncontrolled and undirected is exerting an enormous influence for evil. It is a large factor in the training or education of the child and in the shaping of his character. The child passes daily from the school room to the moving picture and daily the influence of the former is undermined and set aside by the latter. What the school constructs at great labor and expense the moving picture destroys at once. We therefore commend this vital problem to the attention of the educational as well as to the public welfare departments of the State to the end that the moving picture may be properly directed and controlled and may become the public asset that it ought to be instead of the public liability that it is. Without expressing an opinion, this Conference would project for consideration the question: Is it sane or sound to permit public amusement in any form to be exploited for private gain?

### The Moving Picture Evil

This conference desires to go a step further in this important matter, and to place itself on record as favoring the state regulation of moving pictures until such time as federal regulation can be secured.

### In Behalf of "Illegitimate" Children

9. We favor increased appropriations for the care and training of abandoned (Concluded on Page 12)

## NEW GRADES FOR SWEET POTATOES

Revised Grades Will Be Submitted to Growers Here For Approval April 6.

A meeting of unusual interest to sweet potato growers in this section will be held in Elizabeth City Tuesday, April 6. The object of the meeting is explained by Gorrell Shumaker, Acting Chief of the Division of Markets of the U. S. Agricultural Service. Mr. Shumaker says:

"Realizing that the sweet potato grades as proposed last season were not particularly adapted to the needs of North Carolina growers, we appealed to the Federal Bureau of Markets for revision, and after conducting numerous conferences in which experts from all over the South expressed their views, the grades were revised to such an extent that I feel that they are now practical for use in this State."

"Before issuing these grades as law, however, we desire to give the growers in the vicinity of Elizabeth City an opportunity to meet with us and discuss the proposed changes. We have, therefore, requested Mr. Grover W. Falls to arrange for a meeting place at 10:30 A. M., on Tuesday, April 6th."

"At this time we shall also have a Representative from the Horticultural Department who will discuss sweet potato production and the construction of commercial storages. The Horticultural Department has been very active in this storage construction work in the past year, and many new houses have been built. In meetings at Hamlet, Washington and other places in place for building large commercial storage houses."

"We trust that this will reach you early enough to include a notice of this week's issue of The Independent. We feel assured of your hearty cooperation in every way."

### VISITS OLD HOME FIRST TIME IN TWENTY-TWO YEARS

W. B. Walker, a former resident of this county was a guest of friends and family relations in this city this week, for the first time since he left this county in 1898. Mr. Walker is now a resident in West Hoboken, N. J. and came south last week on account of the death of his brother Dr. Zenas Fearing Walker, of Norfolk, Va., who was likewise a former resident of this city. After attending the funeral of his brother in Norfolk last Sunday Mr. Walker came out to renew his acquaintance with the old town.